

disease. We know that there were deaths due to accidents. There were many unexplained reasons—but the abuse that some suffered.

In recent months, we have seen shocking evidence of hundreds of unmarked graves of First Nations children who attended Canadian residential schools and were found at former schools in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

Here in this country, the Department of the Interior has begun a comprehensive archival review of U.S. boarding schools that were here. This is going to be a very important and a very necessary investigation.

Mr. President, I want to share with you the story of one young Aleut girl from Alaska. She was an orphan. She was 17 years old when she died. She died on May 6, 1906. She was a student of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School. This was a rural boarding school that is located in Pennsylvania.

Sophia Tetoff was Unangas, Aleut. She was one of the many children who were lent from the Carlisle School to live with and work for other White families. So keep in mind, when she left Alaska, she was 12 years old. She is 12 years old. She thinks she is going off to boarding school, she is going to get her education, and she is lent from the school to live and work for White families in that area.

Within her first year of being at Carlisle, Sophia would be placed with families in New Jersey, in Maryland, and in Pennsylvania, where she worked essentially as a servant. We don't know a lot of the details of those 5 years that Sophia spent at Carlisle, but what we do know is that after the near monthlong journey it took to get this young girl from her home village on St. Paul Island in the middle of the Bering Sea—think about that. You are 12 years old, and you are put on a ship, leaving your small village in the middle of the Bering Sea and crossing those waters to get over to the east coast—a monthlong journey, for a 12-year-old.

She spent the majority of her time living with various non-Native families, working as a servant, without her family or any familiarity to offer her any comfort.

It was during her last placement that she contracted tuberculosis. She was returned to the school—not returned home. She was returned to the school, where she died a year later, alone in a school hospital. She died alone, 4,000 miles from her home and her family.

This year, in July, Sophia's remains, along with the remains of nine Rosebud Sioux children, were repatriated from Carlisle, PA, back to their original homelands.

Sophia was returned home to St. Paul for her final burial and her forever resting place, surrounded by relatives and people who loved her, even though most had never known her.

It has been reported that Sophia was one of 188 students buried at Carlisle,

and she was one of more than 100,000 Native children who were placed in an estimated 375 boarding schools across our country in an effort to assimilate Indian people.

So just let that kind of sink in for a moment here, the sheer number of young, young children who were taken from their parents, from their families, their Tribes, and their communities who would never return home. This is just—it is heartbreaking.

Carlisle was one of the first off-reservation, government-funded, assimilationist boarding schools that Native American children attended.

We often hear the name BG Richard Henry Pratt mentioned when we learn of some of the atrocities that came from Indian boarding school policies. Mr. Pratt was the founder of the Carlisle School, and he coined the phrase “Kill the Indian, save the man.”

At that time in history, mainstream society largely believed that Native Americans were a problem that needed to be solved and regarded Indian people as almost less than human, savages who needed to be segregated or terminated. Pratt, however, was of another mind and believed in the noble cause of assimilating Native Americans, and his mission was to civilize Indians and assimilate them into mainstream American society. While Pratt may not have intended to be malevolent, the policies and practices that were carried out under his name and Federal mission tore thousands of Native families apart.

The impact of these actions authorized by our government upon Native American people and cultures is something that we never can truly make whole. In many respects, Native cultures were gutted by the impact and loss of Native children, and that is something that we as American people need to acknowledge, learn from, and reckon with in order to support Indian self-determination and healing.

In 1886, a government report about the progress of Indian boarding schools stated that isolating Native children from their families was the key. The report stated:

If it be admitted that education affords the true solution to the Indian problem, then it must be admitted that the boarding school is the very key to the situation.

It went on to say:

Only by complete isolation of the Indian child from his savage antecedents can he be satisfactorily educated.

It wouldn't be until a 1969 Kennedy report that found Indian education had failed and was a national tragedy that the Federal Government would look to begin improving Native American education policies. I think Samuel Torres, of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, said it well when he said:

If we can't name the trauma, if we don't know the extent and scope of that trauma, we'll never heal from it.

So as we are looking to the future and continuing our mission of edu-

cating people about America's painful past treatment of so many Native American people, I would ask that you consider remembering the names of the children who were lost, like Sophia Tetoff, and start weaving the names of these innocent Native children into our collective memory.

If we are going to accurately account for our history and truly support indigenous people, we need to include Native children in this narrative towards healing—say their names, remember their Tribes, and acknowledge the survivors and the families who are still with us.

Mr. President, before I conclude, I want to mention that, to mark the significance of this day, I have introduced a concurrent resolution designating September 30, 2021, as a national day of remembrance for the Native American children who have died while attending a U.S. boarding school and to recognize and honor the survivors of Indian boarding schools and their families.

Now, my resolution is not meant to serve as a solution or an answer or even a long-overdue apology; it, instead, seeks to honor the lives of the many Native children who died in Indian boarding schools and to recognize, support, and honor the survivors and their families and acknowledge the grief and the trauma that our country created, we condoned, and we codified. So my resolution is meant to open a door to the conversation and congressional recognition of the atrocities that our government contributed to and the impact that it has had on so many.

I know we are approaching November. It is usually when we recognize National Native American Heritage Month, but I think it is important that we remember every day, not only today, all those who fought to be here, especially our first peoples in this country. I would encourage all to look at our resolution and support and recognize September 30 for all of the Native American children who died while attending an Indian boarding school or survived the experience and are living to tell about it.

We honor them, their Tribes, their parents, their families, and their communities.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

NOMINATION OF TRACY STONE-MANNING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, the Senate is currently taking up a nominee to the Bureau of Land Management: Tracy Stone-Manning. There is a lot that I can say about Tracy Stone-Manning, but there are some key features that come out if you are going to deal with the Bureau of Land Management.

You walk into a leadership role where you have thousands of people working under you and around you, and you have care for the forests, and you have care for a lot of things that are running our environment.

This particular leader was involved, when she was in college, in a group that was gathering to be able to spike trees. She has admitted that she is the one who actually wrote the letter to be able to actually lay out what they had done, where they drove a spike into some trees, intentionally designed to be able to threaten loggers who would come through that area; that if they actually put a chain saw to that, there is a decent chance it would break the chain and it would come at the logger or that if they put that log in a sawmill, it would split the bandsaw and throw debris across all the workers who are there. To be clear, tree spiking is an act of ecoterrorism.

Now, this individual will be voted on by this body to lead the Bureau of Land Management. I wish I could say that was the only issue that was there, but as you read through her writings—she wrote multiple different things about dealing with environmental issues, but one of the things that were most painful to me to be able to read was a section that she wrote where she had a picture of a child, and in the picture of the child, it said: “This is the greatest environmental threat that we face”—children. In her philosophy, the world has too many kids, and the way that we can protect the environment is to have fewer children in the world. I happen to think children are a blessing, not an environmental threat.

But this body is about to vote on putting Tracy Stone-Manning to lead the Bureau of Land Management.

WORLD AFFAIRS

Mr. President, I wish I could say that is the only issue that is actually moving right now. As I turn and look around the world, there are so many issues and things that are going on right now.

Turkey has actually announced that they are going to buy more Russian missiles. They are completely ignoring what is going on.

France is furious with the United States right now and feels like the United States stabbed them in the back in forming an alliance without them—withdrawing their Ambassador, which is the first they have done in centuries with the United States, because that is a broken relationship with France.

We have put sanctions on individuals. I wish I could tell you it was due to a Russian pipeline, but no—those sanctions were pulled. I wish I could tell you it was on Turkey for actually buying Russian surface-to-air missiles, but no—that hasn't been done. We have added sanctions onto the Attorney General of Guatemala. Attorney General Porras, they are saying, is corrupt, although she is actually trying to address corruption in her country.

I wish I could tell you that is even the only issue we are dealing with. In Afghanistan, the Taliban has now announced their new leader for the Taliban in Afghanistan, Mullah Muhammad Hassan, who is a U.N.-sanc-

tioned individual. That is the transition to the new government that we are going to work with, where hundreds of Americans still remain because they were left behind.

In Iran, it doesn't get any better. In Iran, they just announced again that they are not going to allow the IAEA inspectors to be able to come in and to deal with cameras in the centrifuge sites. They continue to be able to stiff-arm the world and to say that is what they are going to do, and there seem to be no new consequences for Iran. But there is for the Attorney General of Guatemala, but not in other areas.

In the Armed Services Committee this week, the top brass for the United States made it very clear that they had recommended to the President leaving 2,500 troops in Afghanistan. When the President announced, “No one ever told me that,” the top leadership all said they made it clear.

I wish I could even tell you that is the only issue going on with the military right now, but many people don't know that President Biden, just a couple of weeks ago, fired every appointee from the Trump administration time period that President Trump put in for the Board of Visitors for all of our academies—the Naval Academy, West Point, Air Force—just cleared them all. It wasn't based on their qualifications; it was just if Trump appointed them, they are all bad—and cleared all of those appointees from every single academy board.

By the way, that has never been done by any President, ever. Just clear the deck. If Trump said they are good, they must be bad.

On the southern border, we all know full well what is happening in the chaos that is there, as we have now topped well over a million individuals that we have interdicted from over 100 different countries that have crossed our southwest border illegally. And the number, I would love to tell you, of those that have been allowed to be able to come into the country, except DHS won't tell us that number for months.

Federal courts have stepped in and have told the Biden administration they have to reimpose the MPP process that President Trump put in that dramatically dropped the number of people coming to our southwest border illegally. The Federal courts instructed the Biden administration a month ago that they have to put that back in place. And so far, the Biden administration has said: We are thinking about it; we are examining it—and won't even release a timeline to be able to follow the Federal court.

Now, it is one thing for the Biden administration to be angry at Congress, but currently, they are ignoring a Federal court order. That is a whole different issue on our democracy.

Afghan evacuees have one set of standards to be able to come in; people on the southwest border have an entirely different set. And in the middle of it, there is an ongoing dialogue

about vaccine mandates for every American. The President gave a speech and dropped a mandate and said: Everyone that works in a company that has 100 people or more has to get the vaccine. It is his requirement.

Now, he has yet to give the legal authority for that. In fact, they have yet to put out a single document from the Department of Labor. They just put a deadline date out there, and they are asking every company to be able to implement it simply based off his speech.

The President cannot just give a speech and mandate to the country what to do. That is not how a representative republic works, but yet that is what is happening. It is even more chaos among Federal workers and among Federal contractors because they did the same mandate to them. But, quite frankly, agency to agency, they are trying to figure out what do. And one agency handles it one way, and another agency is handling it completely different because no instructions have come down from the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget.

They have failed to be able to put out the most basic instructions, so there is chaos. And, literally, we—I have individuals that are Federal contractors saying: We are just not going to do Federal contracting anymore on this—or they can't complete a contract because so many people within their company have said: I am not going to take the vaccine. I have already had COVID. I have natural immunity. I am not going to do it.

Currently, the President has only given a speech. And whether it is the National Guard that only has 40 percent of the Guard vaccinated or whether it is in private companies, the chaos is running around the entire country. As people that are vaccinated like me encourage others to be vaccinated and say: I am glad that I have been vaccinated, and I am glad that I have the vaccine, others are saying: You know what, I am an American; why are you making me take this; why am I going to lose my job if I can't do this?

I have talked to union employees that work in Federal unions that are saying: Why isn't my union protecting me? My union seems to be capitulating instead of actually helping me, I thought my union was supposed to represent me. But yet union bosses are telling their union members: We are not going to listen to you this time; we are going to listen to the President instead of you as a union member.

And I have talked to quite a few that are really ticked off because this was not in their collective bargaining agreement. And they are wanting to know when their voice actually gets heard. I will tell you, I don't know when their voice actually gets heard because they have been locked out.

All of those things are happening all around the world. And on the other side of the building, they are working on fighting over an infrastructure bill